PADDLEWHEEL ALLIANCE

Community Affairs File

Assoc (Wabash Valley)

PADDLEWHEEL PRESS

IMU ROOM 48 K
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47405
812-339-2925

APRIL 1980

MEETING AT MADISON: PAPER SOLUTIONS TO A CONCRETE PROBLEM

The NRC held a public meeting in Madison on March 25 to discuss PSI's plans to resume safety construction at the Marble Hill site. Work was halted there in August 1979 due to shoddy concrete construction work, which the NRC attributed to PSI management problems.

An overflow crowd of more than 500 heard PSI officials read prepared statements. Little was said about remedies for the faulty construction which is already in place at the plant. Instead, they claimed to have made improvements in organization, lines of communication, staff size, and quality assurance; paper solutions to a concrete problem.

Victor Stello and the 13 other NRC officials present never really asked any tough questions. The whole PSI-NRC interaction seemed pre-arranged, and the list of questions had been submitted to PSI in advance. A project engineer was uncomfortable when asked if random tests of concrete integrity had shown any previously undisclosed flaws. He skirted the question by saying that the general conclusion of the tests was that the concrete was sound. At no point did PSI flatly state that no new flaws had been found.

After two hours, the public was allowed to speak. At least half the crowd was pro-Marble Hill, but most of the statements were from opponents of the plant. Wendell Berry said the NRC seemed to be a collaborator with PSI, not an adversary as regulators ought to be. Janet Hill voiced the concern of local residents for their families, who must live with a nuclear plant long after the bureaucrats leave.

Among people called to testify by Save The Valley attorney Tom Datillo was Marion Hudgins, a former inspector at Marble Hill. He said that motor-operated valves, to be used in reactor piping, had been improperly stored, and had suffered significant corrosion. Hudgins reported to his supervisor that the valves were no better than junk, but to no avail.

State Senator Michael Kendall cross-examined PSI and forced them to concede that PSI had failed to inform co-owner utilities that PSI did not have the legally-required N-stamp. This deception might be grounds for legal action against PSI by the State of Indiana.

Even though the meeting was well attended and many powerful reasons for stopping Marble Hill were presented, the NRC acted as if it had already made up its mind to allow construction to resume; a formal decision may come this month.

Reactor Unit One is now 30% complete, and it will be more and more difficult to stop as it nears completion. Thus a stronger effort to stop Marble Hill is needed.

-- Will Bishop

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Paddlewheel Press is a free publication of Bloomington Paddlewheel Alliance, for the information of Paddlewheelers and all who are committed to Safe Energy.

Involved in this issue:

Will Bishop, Michael Greven, Ken Vogt, Liz Loring, Jon Weinstein, Linda Keenan

TMI - 1 YEAR LATER

It's O.K. After all nobody has died at Three Mile Island... yet. They forget the yet.

---Kathy McCaughin
Madison, June 1979

Lately we have been immersed in the TMI anniversary: articles, TV documentaries, rallies, civil disobedience at several reactor sites and at General Public Utilities headquarters in New Jersey, resulted in hundreds of arrests.

No one has forgotten Three Mile Island, and those near Harrisburg least of all: they can never forget it.

The intense emotions revealed, for example, by the reaction to the NRC's plan to "vent" Krypton gas at TMI are totally understandable. For the people of Harrisburg's lives were changed permanently, families were split up, parents will live with fear for their small children. None of those things are measured by millirems, or cleanup costs, or Price-Anderson Insurance.

But one year after TMI, we know that the damage was much more than merely psychological, just a little slow in showing up.

That is the danger of radioactivity- incredibly small amounts are needed to produce serious biological effects.

--Ernest Sternglass
Ohio Valley Environment Mar '80

The effects of TMI we are seeing were predicted in Oct. '79 by Dr. Ernest Sternglass at a Paddlewheel Forum. And TMI wasn't the first event which produced secret, hidden damage in the young. Fallout from weapons testing during the '50's and '60's descended in especially heavy doses on places like Albany. Average dose was something like 150 millirems and the results:

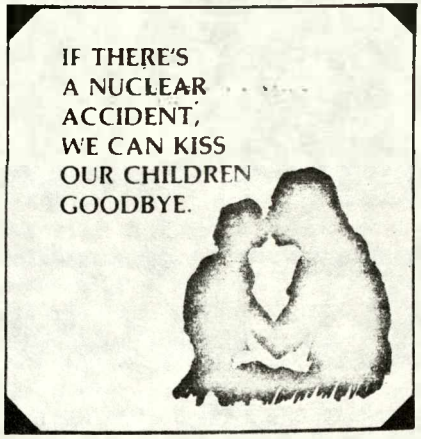
- abnormally high numbers of miscarriages and infant deaths
- 4 times the number of cancers in children

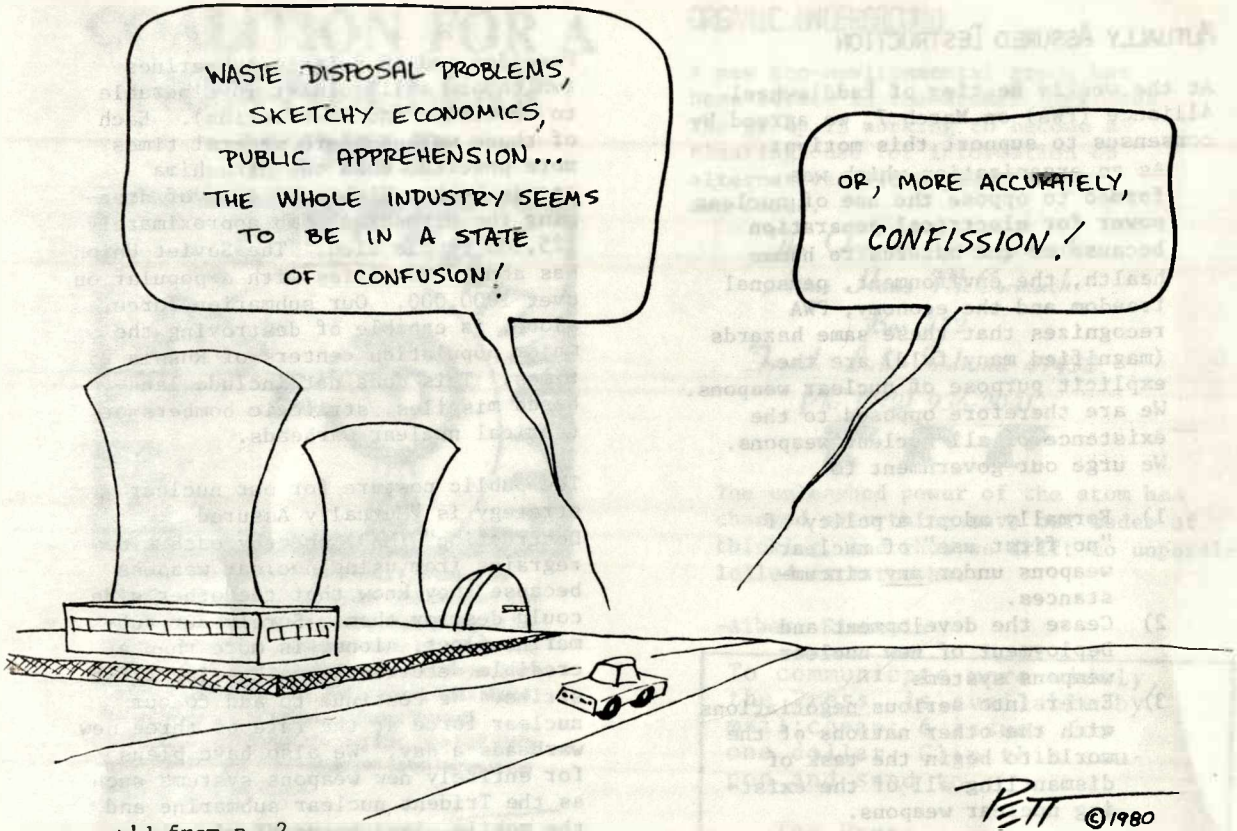
From 1970-75 the Millstone reactor in Connecticut in the course of "normal" operation put out over 100 mr of Iodine-131 and Strontium-90 and the results:

- cancer rate was 58% near reactor
- infant mortality doubled.

So by March of 1979 it had been established by those and other studies that a dose of 80 mr doubled the risk of cancer and leukemia for those in the first trimester for children who would be born six months after exposure. [Normal background radiation is around 80 mr but this contains no iodine estimation - the most dangerous for kids' thyroids]

cont'd on p. 3




WASTE DISPOSAL PROBLEMS, SKETCHY ECONOMICS, PUBLIC APPREHENSION... THE WHOLE INDUSTRY SEEMS TO BE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION!
OR, MORE ACCURATELY, CONFISSION!
PETT ©1980

cont'd from p. 2

And what was the average dose around TMI? 80 millirems, and heavy in strontium and iodine. And six months after the accident, the babies - most at risk, started to be born, and the awful effects predicted by Sternglass last October are now being confirmed...13 hypothyroid babies were born near TMI compared to a normal 3. Odds against such an event occurring by chance are 1 in 10,000. [Nature 2/28/80]... a recent report by the Pennsylvania Health Dep't indicates that infant mortality rate has in fact doubled since the accident.

And this is only the beginning, since many cancers will not appear for 20 years, and many infants who survive will be weakened by the effects of radiation, and die prematurely.

But the NRC denies these effects are caused by radiation: they are co-incidences. The NRC wants to reopen the plant at TMI and wants to release kdypton gas into the atmosphere.

Even though the NRC now admits accidents as serious as TMI will likely occur, perhaps once a decade, they continue to license plants because they believe that the TMI accident proves plants are safe (no one died, only "psychological effects").

But the prophetic "yet" of Kathy McCaughin is here now; we must stop Marble Hill, with its porous walls, from giving the people of Indiana a legacy of fear for themselves and an even longer legacy for our children.

--Ken Vogt

Mutually Assured Destruction

At the weekly meeting of Paddlewheel Alliance (PWA) on March 7, we agreed by consensus to support this motion:

> As an organization which was formed to oppose the use of nuclear power for electrical generation because of the hazards to human health, the environment, personal freedom and the economy, PWA recognizes that these same hazards (magnified many fold) are the explicit purpose of nuclear weapons. We are therefore opposed to the existence of all nuclear weapons. We urge our government to:
>
> 1) Formally adopt a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons under any circumstances.
> 2) Cease the development and Deployment of new nuclear weapons systems.
> 3) Enter into serious negotiations with the other nations of the world to begin the task of dismantling all of the existing nuclear weapons.

As this is, apparently, a new position for PWA, some explanation is in order. Recent estimates indicate that the United States has between 9,000 - 12,000 strategic (capable of intercontinental delivery from long range bombers, missiles, or nuclear submarines) nuclear warheads.

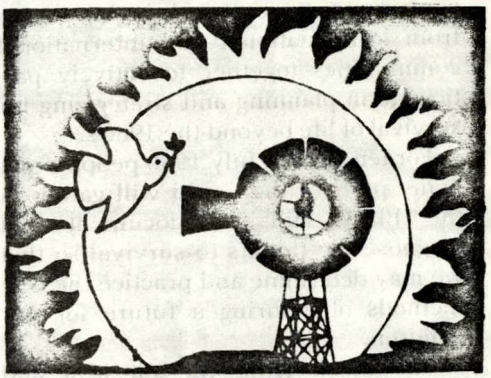
We also have approximately 20,000 tactical (meant for relatively "local" warfare). Nuclear weapons range in destructive power from 20,000 tons of TNT (the size of the bomb dropped on Nagasaki) to 24,000,000 tons of TNT. For comparison, we dropped about 2 million tons of bombs in WW II. We have single bombs with the explosive power of 12 WW II's. In our strategic warheads are distributed between 31 Poseidon and 10 Polaris submarines (which are still almost invulnerable to detection and destruction). Each of these warheads are several times more powerful than the Hiroshima atomic bomb. Within 10 days of dropping the Hiroshima bomb approximately 125,000 people died. The Soviet Union has about 200 cities with a population over 1000,000. Our submarien force, alone, is capable of destroying the major population centers of Russia 25 times. This does not include land-based missiles, strategic bombers or tactical nuclear warheads.

The public posture for our nuclear strategy is "Mutually Assured Destruction" (MAD) whereby each side regrains from using nuclear weapons because they know that the other side could destroy them. Surelv our submarine fleet, alone, is more than a credible deterrent to a Russian first strike. We continue to add to our nuclear force at the rate of three new warheads a day. We also have plans for entirely new weapons systems such as the Trident nuclear submarine and the mobile, land based MX missile. Why do we continue to stimulate the arms race at such high costs (one Trident nuclear submarine will cost $2 billion, the MX project $30 billion).

It is commonly assumed that our nuclear force is for defensive purposes (MAD). Deterrence does not explain the massive size of our nuclear force, nor the planned additions. In 1976 when asked if he could forsee "any circumstances in which we would be justified in resorting to a first strike with nuclear weapons," Jimmy Carter responded, saying that he would order a surprise first strike "if I was convinced that the existence or the security of our nation was threatened." He included the security of Western Europe and Japan as "inseparable from our own security."

continued on page 6

COALITION FOR A NON-NUCLEAR WORLD



April 26: **LEGAL MARCH AND RALLY, Washington Monument, 1 pm**, featuring speakers and musicians from a broad cross-section of the country, highlighting the five goals of the Coalition. Speakers include **Larry Anderson, Helen Caldicott, Barry Commoner, Dave Dellinger, Steve Gaskin, Jeannine Honicker, Ted Lombard, Hilda Mason, Russell Means, Sara Nelson** and **Donna Warnock**. Musicians include **Bright Morning Star, John Hall, Holly Near, Bonnie Raitt, Pete Seeger** and **Sweet Honey in the Rock**. More will be added!

April 28: NONVIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE linking the Department of Energy to the Pentagon. This will be the first mass civil disobedience at the Pentagon since 1967. **Nonviolence training is required for participation in this action.** Training sessions will be held in Washington on April 27—to sign up use the coupon below.

CHICAGO RALLY PLANNED - JUNE 7

There will be a regional demonstration in Chicago on June 7. Speakers will include John Gofman, Barry Commoner and representatives from Three Mile Island Alert. There will also be a fine array of musical talent to provide entertainment. This is the major regional activity this spring and we need to muster as much support as possible to make it a success.

SAY NO TO NUKES IN THE MIDWEST
.....BE IN CHICAGO.....

ORGANIC UNDERGROUND

A new eco-environmental group has been formed in the French Lick area. The group is working to become a clearinghouse for information on alternative life styles, energy, and foods.

The Organic Underground
Attn: Hans McCormack
Box 472
French Lick, Indiana 47432
Ph: (812) 936-2041

The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift to unparallelled catastrophe.

-Albert Einstein

To communicate more widely, the Press is available by mail; cheap: 6 issues for one dollar. Clip this coupon and send to :

The Press
c/o Paddlewheel Alliance
IMU Room 48 K
Bloomington, IN. 47405

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

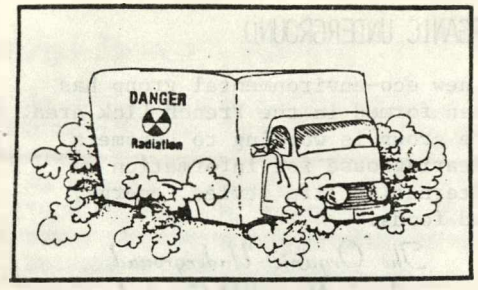
State: _____ Zip: _____

___ Send 6 Issues of **The** Press I enclose $1.00

___ Please accept this contribution of $____

___ Please send information on _____

___ I enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.



TRANSPORT

PROGRESS (?) REPORT

Consideration of a Paddlewheel supported ordinance regulating radioactive materials transport through Bloomington was delayed again at the March meeting of the EQCC.
The body will try again at its meeting on April 4, 7:00 p.m. in the Monroe County Public Library Staff Room.
The session should be a lively one; the commission is scheduled to continue its eight year quest for information regarding the PCB contaminated sewer system. (You can be sure: it was Westinghouse)

THE BLACK HILLS ARE NOT FOR SALE!

The Black Hills International Survival Gathering is a means of bringing people from local, national and international communities together to actively participate in planning and strategizing for survival of life beyond the 1980's.

For ten days in July 1980 people from many parts of the world will gather in the Black Hills to document and diagnose the threats to survival so that we may determine and practice the best methods of assuring a future for our children.

The Black Hills—the physical and spiritual center of North America—and the whole Northern Great Plains region is a target for elaborate and deadly energy exploitation. The issues making survival in the Black Hills a point in question are the same issues that face all of our communities. (605) 342-5127

---

continued from p. 4

Why should Paddlewheel Alliance, an environmental organization, be involved in questions of national security and strategic diplomacy? All of the environmental problems involved in the various stages of nuclear power production are part of the weapons program (from mining to waste disposal). The human health problems of low level radiation are also present in the manufacturing of the weapons.

Our latest impetus to escalating the arms race has come from a perceived threat to our energy supplies (presumably an environmental problem.) The new developments in nuclear power are usually used as a partial justification for the costs involved in the weapons program. The funds for weapons development come from the Department of Energy, not Defense. The by-products from power plants can be (and have been) used for the fabrication of nuclear bombs. In 1974 India exploded a nuclear device using the material from power reactors. Nuclear power and nuclear weapons go hand in hand.

It seems as though people in the environmental movement tend to ignore the problem of nuclear weapons. The problems are bound together and too dangerous to ignore. I would like to explore issues of nuclear weapons in more detail and would appreciate working with other folks who share similar concerns. If you are interested please contact me (337-4115 - ask for Jon Weinstein).

CALENDAR

Paddlewheel Alliance has its general meeting at 7 p.m. every Monday in the IMU. The Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World meets at 6 p.m. on Mondays outside 48K in the IMU. The local issues committee of Paddlewheel meets at 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays outside 48K in the IMU.

April 6-13	World Hunger Week
April 10	Chris Williamson concert 8:00 p.m. IU Aud.
	Sierra Club mtg. on solid waste, MCPL, 7:00 p.m.
April 11-13	Radiation Victim Hearings Washington, D.C.
April 12	Take Back the Night Rally, Dunn Meadow, 6:00 p.m.
April 13	Paddlewheel Benefit (article on p. 8)
	Last day for reservations to go to D.C. April 26
	BGA Spring Dance, Bullwinkles
	Alternative Lifestyle Festival, French Lick (see article p. 5)
April 14	Environmental Quality Control Comm. MCPL 7:00 p.m. (see article p. 3)
	Slide show - a Report on Cuba, YSA, 8 p.m.

April 17	Big Business Day, IMU, all day
April 19	Non-violence training (contact PWA)
	Energy Fair, Broadripple Park, Indy
	Benefit Concert, JAC against the draft, Kinsey Hollow
April 22	Earth Day, local activities
	Safe Energy Action & Q95 All day festival at Ball State, Indy
April 25	Bloomington people leave for D.C.
April 26	March on Washington (see article p. 5)

They'll take your money
And then take your health
To line their pockets with
Unequalled wealth
These men are under
The power of gold
We won't be safe until we
Shut them down cold

Face the fire
You can't turn away
The risk grows greater
With each passing day
The waiting's over
The moment has come
To kill the fire
And turn to the sun

Dan Fogelberg

PADDLEWHEEL ALLIANCE
presents
ACOUSTIC NIGHT
at the WRIGHT QUAD CAFE
across from main library on Jordan
speakers featuring
SEN.MICHEAL KENDALL
music with
KEITHE/LOWRIE DUET
EASY STREET STRING BAND
MIKE WHITE
AND TOM ROSNOWSKI
SUREFIRE
refreshments
and more!!!
child care provided
7:00 speakers 8:30 music
SUNDAY APRIL 13 $1.50

Paddlewheel Alliance To Sue Fair Board For Contract Breach

JUL 24 1978

By J. BLAINE AKERS
Star Staff Writer

A local chapter of the Paddlewheel Alliance, an anti-nuclear energy organization, is pursuing legal action against the Wabash Valley Fair Association because the group allegedly was denied a booth at the Vigo County Fair.

Michael Gordon, a spokesman for Paddlewheel Alliance of Terre Haute, said the local chapter contacted the Indiana Civil Liberties Union after the fair board canceled a "witnessed verbal contract" with them.

According to Gordon, Paddlewheel Alliance of Terre Haute in early June spoke with Gene Elliot, a fair board member, in regards to renting a booth for the fair. Elliot is in charge of fairgrounds rental and fair space rental. Gordon contends his group informed Elliot Paddlewheel Alliance was a non-profit organization wishing to distribute information about nuclear energy and possible energy alternatives. Gordon said Elliot confirmed there would be rental space made available to the special interest group.

However, on July 18 the anti-nuclear energy group was informed by Elliot they would not be permitted to operate a booth. Gordon contends his group was told at least three times before July 18 his group would be allowed a booth. He said the organization paid $115 for a tent and about $500 for printing costs of literature explaining the group's cause.

Elliot was not available for comment Monday, but a spokesman for the fair board, who asked not to be identified, said Paddlewheel Alliance was denied a booth because the group represented a "certain faction which denounced the construction of nuclear power sites." The spokesman said Elliot and other fair board members had been led to believe Paddlewheel Alliance was an educational organization and Elliot and others were not aware the group intended to circulate a clean energy petition. The clean energy petition is a part of a nationwide drive by the Task Force Against Nuclear Pollution and has been endorsed by such persons as Ralph Nader, Robert Redford and Ann Roosevelt.

"Our purpose is to inform the public of the inherent safety, environmental and economic problems involved in the generation of nuclear power and the possibilities of alternative energy. We feel the public should be informed as to the precise nature of all the disadvantages of nuclear energy," Gordon said.

Gordon said Paddlewheel Alliance intends to sue the fair board for breach of contract and violation of civil rights applicable in the First Amendment and Fourth Amendment. Gordon said other special-interest groups were allowed booths at the fair.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

'Informational' picket planned by local Paddlewheel Alliance

Assoc (TH)
T AUG 1 1979

By JOE BAKER
Tribune Staff Writer

At least 30 persons are expected to join an "informational" picket Friday of the local Public Service Indiana office, 125 Harding Ave., in protest of the nuclear power facility under construction at Marble Hill, a local member of the anti-nuclear Paddlewheel Alliance said Wednesday.

The planned picket comes on the heels of a recent order by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to halt construction on the Marble Hill facility following a preliminary study showing 500 to 600 instances of "honeycombing" — air pockets — in concrete wall.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which already has halted concrete work once this month, was prepared to halt such work again unless PSI acted first voluntarily, a NRC regional official was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Michael Gordon, the local member of the Paddlewheel Alliance, said that while the picket will be informational a petition will be circulated calling for a moratorium on continued construction.

Asked how he distinguished between a moratorium on construction and the shutdown order, Gordon said, "The NRC action is a past action. It's fine but it's only one small step."

The petition calls for "at least a serious halt and a serious examination" of the issues surrounding the nuclear plant's construction, Gordon said.

The local Paddlewheel Alliance chapter — which has a core membership of 20 persons, with 30 to 50 persons showing up to meetings, according to Gordon — is among at least three other chapters scheduling pickets at PSI offices.

The pickets, set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, are scheduled at Bloomington, Columbus and Plainfield, where the PSI headquarters is located.

The NRC investigation of the Marble Hill facility was prompted by former construction workers' complaints of inadequate concrete work. The NRC investigation led to the shutdown order.

The facility is to have two reactor units. One is 25 percent complete; the other is 5 percent done. The first is due to be completed in 1983.

Meanwhile, the Paddlewheel Alliance "will be filing soon" a suit against the Wabash Valley Fair Association, which Gordon claims denied the anti-nuclear group a booth at the recent Vigo County Fair after fair officials said it could have one.

The denial prompted the anti-nuclear group to claim a possible breach of contract and a violation of free speech.

Gordon said the local group was gathering affidavits noting the financial losses incurred when the group was under the impression it was granted permission to have a fair booth to press its concern about nuclear energy. The group, Gordon said, had spent $115 for a tent and nearly $500 to print literature to be distributed at the fair.

"One thing we want to do is to make sure this thing doesn't happe again," Gordon said. "It's ridiculous."

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Fair Reneges on Paddlewheel Alliance

Assoc (T.H) Better Times 8-1-79

The Terre Haute chapter of the Paddlewheel Alliance has announced its intentions to file suit against the Vigo County Fair Board for breach of contract after their last minute exclusion from the fair.

Early in June the anti-nuclear organization contacted Fair Board representative Gene Elliot to obtain space at the Vigo County Fair. The group stated they intended to distribute educational information and to sell T-shirts, bumperstickers and buttons to defray their expenses. Elliot was assured by a representative of the Paddlewheel Alliance that any profit made by the group would be shared equally with the Wabash Valley Fair Association. Elliot was told that the non-profit organization was opposed to nuclear energy and was involved in promoting a variety of energy alternatives. After a brief discussion the Paddlewheel Alliance was informed that space at the Vigo County Fair would be made available.

Following the Fair Board's acceptance of the Paddlewheel Alliance application, the group proceeded to make preparations for their display at the Vigo County Fair. A tent was rented to house the display, T-shirts were designed, pamphlets printed, posters were made to accentuate the health effects of radiation and the alternatives to nuclear power. The group had also obtained a solar collector to help demonstrate the feasibility of using solar energy.

During the Paddlewheel Alliance's preparations for the fair there were at least three contacts with the Fair Board. Each time, the nature of the organization was stated, and display space at the fair was assured. On the day before the anti-nuclear organization learned of the change of heart by the Fair Board a Paddlewheel representative contacted Fair Board President Walter Gray. During the conversation Gray never intimated any change in Paddlewheel's status at the fair.

On the following day, July 18, a member of the organization, Tim Roeschlein, went to the fairgrounds to help set up the display. Upon arrival Roeschlein was informed that there would be no Paddlewheel Alliance display at the fair. Elliot expressed objections to the Ralph Nader-endorsed "Clean Energy Petition" and told Roeschlein that no petitions are allowed on the fair grounds. Roeschlein told Elliot that if the petition was objectionable the organization would not circulate it. Elliot told Roeschlein that the decision had already been made to exclude the Paddlewheel Alliance from the fair, and withdrawal of the petition would have no impact on that decision.

Upon hearing of the decision to exclude the Paddlewheel Alliance from the Vigo County Fair, Better Times contacted a representative of the Fair Board for comment. We were referred to Gene Elliot. Elliot restated his objections to petitioning at the fair and told Better Times that he did not understand the nature of the Paddlewheel Alliance. "I thought maybe they were going to show us how we could use nuclear energy in a kitchen or something," Elliot told Better Times.

Dr. Gray told the Statesmen that the Paddlewheel Alliance was excluded because it was "a leftist group". Gray said, "We're not going to let them tear down the President of the United States and democracy." Gray declined, however, to explain how the group was trying to undermine democracy or the presidency.

A statement released by the Paddlewheel Alliance said, "Our purpose is to inform the public of the inherent safety, environmental, and economic problems involved in the generation of nuclear power and the possibilities of alternative forms of energy. We feel that the public should be informed as to the precise nature of all the disadvantages of nuclear energy."

A spokesman for the Paddlewheel Alliance of Terre Haute said, "We never intended to cause any problems at the fair. And if we had been denied a booth in the first place, we probably would have dropped the idea. We were told we would have a booth at the fair. We spent $400-$500 and made our plans only to be denied space at the last minute."

The local chapter of the Paddlewheel Alliance is currently taking care of the legal odds and ends before filing their suit for breach of contract, and wishes to assure the community that a narrow-minded few will not stop their attempts to inform the public.

Community Affairs File
Vigo County Public Library
DO NOT CIRCULATE

PARENTS ANONYMOUS

Parents Anonymous forming group in city

Associations (PA)
Community Affairs File
18 SEP 2 0 1984

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Parents who abuse their children — or fear they could — should be aware a Parents Anonymous group is being formed in Terre Haute.

The group, which maintains confidentiality, will meet for the first time from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday in St. Benedict's Catholic Church's Hellmann Hall, Ninth and Walnut streets. Child care will be provided and meetings are free.

Roxie Seely and Lucy Field will conduct the meetings. Seely was involved with Parents Anonymous for four years in Pennsylvania, and Field was sponsor of a group in Greencastle for nearly a year. Field is also a second-year doctoral student in counseling psychology.

"I believe it's a good organization," Seely said Monday. "It has helped me through a lot of my troubled times as a parent."

She described Parents Anonymous as a self-help group for parents who do abuse children, or are afraid that they could.

Perhaps a person doesn't feel confident about being a parent, or maybe parents need help in coping with stressful situations.

Seely described meetings as more of a coffee klatch, not a group therapy session. Parents have a chance to talk about themselves, as well as positive and negative things that happened during the week.

"We do expect certain things from parents," Seely said, including attendance at meetings. They also ask that parents make an effort to understand and control the abuse problem.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Comm... T - DEC 9 1984

Associations (W.V.)

Parents Anonymous lists helpful books, pamphlets

Parents Anonymous officials note there are no "magic cures or answers" for parents. They add, "Members do have a common purpose, a unity in goals and a sincere interest in helping each other ... one might say that people helping people has its own touch of 'magic.'"

The national office lists several books and pamphlets for men and women working to be better parents.

"Child Abuse Is Scary" (facts and feelings for those who may need to report);

"Now You've Done It" (handbook for new mothers);

"The Standoffs" (story about touching);

"Why Does It Hurt To Be You?" (story about the child in all of us);

"Hope for the Children — A Personal History of Parents Anonymous" by Patte Wheat with Leonard L. Leiber;

"Breaking the Cycle of Child Abuse" by Christine Comstock Herbruck.

Parents Anonymous also publishes a national newsletter, "Frontiers."

For more information, write to Parents Anonymous, 22330 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 208, Torrance, Calif. 90505.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

Associations (W.V.)

Parents trying hard to become 'better parents'

DEC 9 1984

By Penny Blaker Mitchell
Tribune-Star Living Editor

"Reach for the phone ... not the kid!"

This is the motto of Parents Anonymous, a self-help group for men and women who abuse or fear they may abuse their children.

Roxie Seely, group leader of the local chapter, said parents "who just want to be better parents are welcome."

"Meetings are kind of like getting together over a cup of coffee to talk about things that are wrong and things that are good. 'I'm having this problem, did you ever have it and what did you do?' We talk about goals for the week. One parent may say, 'I'm going to try to stop yelling shut up all the time.' Then at the next meeting, we'll talk about the progress she made ... We talk about the good and the bad and how we can improve ... It is really a sharing experience."

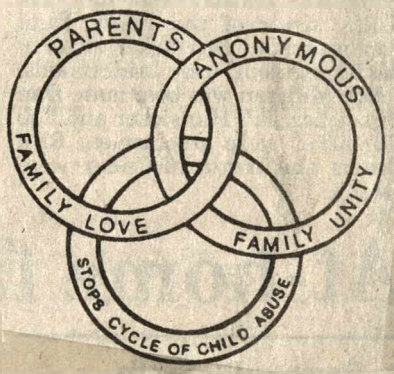
The Indiana Office of Parents Anonymous, 615 N. Alabama St., Indianapolis, lists several factors that motivate parents to participate:

— They are unhappy with their relationship with their kids;

— They seek better understanding of "how to parent;"

— They are concerned about negative feelings toward their child or children;

— They abuse their child.



During the weekly meetings, parents "examine what is inside to learn to adapt and change behavior patterns."

Some men and women turn to Parents Anonymous because they were abused when they were children.

Seely explained, "As a child I was abused ... I knew what I didn't want to do, but I didn't know what to do. When we become parents, we model ourselves after our parents ... I didn't want to do that."

Sometimes crisis situations within a family create tension, stress and the potential of creating an abusive situation.

Seely said unemployment, death, divorce, moving from one neighborhood to another or from one city to another, kids starting school or having trouble in school can all lead to dangerous family situations. "Sometimes things upset the normal routine of the family ... and the parents are just not able to cope very well."

Seely said Parents Anonymous recognizes six types of abuse: physical abuse, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, physical neglect, emotional neglect and sexual abuse.

Seely, who has been affiliated with Parents Anonymous five years and helped start the group in Terre Haute in September, said a counselor attends meetings as a "sponsor." "She helps us handle any real problems that might develop ... offers insights, and, sometimes, advice ... Meetings are not counseling sessions."

She added, "Parents Anonymous is non-judgmental. We don't talk about who is the 'worst' parent or abuser. We don't make referrals and we don't report parents to authorities unless they are continuing with blatant abuse that goes on and on and on. But we don't automatically report everyone who comes to a meeting. We feel that parents made a major step on their own by coming to a meeting ... they have admitted they would like to have help. So we encourage them to stop the abuse and to attend the meetings."

During meetings parents talk about their feelings of anger, fear, guilt and frustration, and work on positive ways to change their behavior as they support and encourage one another.

Parents are expected to attend meetings each week, to work to understand and control the abuse problem, and to reach for the telephone before abusing their child.

Parents Anonymous officials say parents who fear they may become verbally abusive, emotionally abusive or "out of control" often discover that "just getting it off their chest" is a great relief.

The local chapter of Parents Anonymous meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. each Thursday in the education building of St. Benedict Catholic Church, Ninth and Walnut Streets.

Seely said meetings are confidential. Only first names are used.

Child care and transportation are available, she added. No fees are charged. Participants share telephone numbers so that if problems arise during the week, parents will have "someone to turn to."

Noting that all forms of abuse are damaging to children and parents, Seely added, "Parents Anonymous helps ... I believe in it."

For more information, interested parents may telephone Lifeline, 235-8333, or Seely, 232-2731.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

Parents Anonymous —

S MAR 1 6 1982

Assoc (Wabash Valley)

Child Abusers Turn To Each Other For Help

By GINA SEGOVIA
Star Staff Writer

"There have been times I have had to lock myself in the bathroom e.. I don't want to hit my children. My little girl would stand outside the door and beg to come in," recounts Pat (not her real name).

"Pat" is an abusive parent. She is one of many in the community who have formed a local chapter of Parents Anonymous, a group patterned after Alcoholics Anonymous. It seeks to help problem parents help themselves. Pat's desire to seek help in the group was a good sign, says Pam King, one of the organizers of the local chapter of Parents Anonymous.

Such self-realization represents hope, says King, also a Vigo County School Corporation social worker. She explains that parenting skills can be taught, and part of the Parents Anonymous approach involves teaching parents like Pat to be constructive in their behavior toward their children.

Pat feels her childhood set her up to abuse her children. "My mother never showed me any physical affection. She never touched us. The first time I can remember her hugging me was about three months ago. I'm in my mid-thirties," she says.

The other piece of Pat's behavior puzzle is frustration, according to King. "No parent intends to hurt their children. Abusive parents are frustrated, and they take out that frustration on the child."

Outside pressures almost buried Pat. Dealing with an unemployed and then alcoholic husband for almost a year pushed her into an emotional corner. Her husband finally suffered an emotional breakdown and had to be hospitalized.

Pat says part of the pressure that caused her husband's breakdown was due in part to the couple's inability to deal with their children.

> "My mother never showed me any physical affection. She never touched us. The first time I can remember her hugging me was about three months ago. I'm in my mid-thirties."

"When I got married doctors told me that I couldn't have children. I'm a high-strung person who never really liked to baby sit. I didn't like kids. We never planned to have any. Then I got pregnant, and before I could catch my breath I was pregnant with a second child," Pat said.

Her oldest child is hyperactive. "She can be to the top of the refrigerator and into rat poison in the time it takes me to turn around," she added.

King explained that dealing with special children requires more skill from the parent. She said much abuse occurs in families where there are exceptional children who are mentally or physically abnormal.

An abusive act, says King, is one that is done "not to control the behavior of the child" but to "relieve parental frustration."

Pat says she is one who expects perfection from herself and others. "When other people aren't perfect I get angry with them," she said.

King said this too is typical in cases of child abuse. "The parent wants approval from the outside, this includes approval of their children. They don't realize that they have to feel good about themselves from within. It starts inside."

The desire for approval from their children is what drives many parents to abuse. "They don't realize that it is a kid's job to test parents. If kids don't get their way they WILL reject the parent by sulking," King said, adding parents take this as personal rejection and not a limits test.

The insecurity pattern is a factor that occurs generation after generation, and may explain why over 80 percent of all abusive parents were abused children.

"They are replaying what social workers call life scripts," King said.

But Pat is trying to change with the help of local parenting support groups such as the newly formed Parents Anonymous. "I try to hug my children. I try to touch them and let them know they are loved."

Still, she is depressed: "I can't laugh at anything anymore. I feel isolated. I don't have any family here. I even cry when the dog doesn't catch the chuckwagon in the dog food commercial."

People who attend the Parents Anonymous sessions give first names only. In fact, they are prohibited from giving any other information. Attending a meeting of Parents Anonymous may even help a parent hold on to their children if the abuse has been reported to the Welfare Department.

"A willingness on the part of the parent to get help is taken into consideration by the departent when child abuse has been reported," says King.

As a school social worker King is just as concerned with the abused children as reforming their parents. She warned that not reporting child abuse or even suspicions of child abuse constitute a criminal offense in Indiana. People cannot get in trouble for reporting child abuse that once investigated proves not to be the case. Abused children can also call the Welfare Department and report their situation.

But aside from that, Pat and those like her hope Parents Anonymous will help her form a better relationship with her offspring: "Maybe just being able to talk to people with the same feelings — not feeling so bad about them — will help," she said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Wabash Valley Chapter of Parents Anonymous meets the first and third Thursdays of the month from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Washington Ave. Presbyterian Church at 619 Washington Avenue. For more information call 231-8376.

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

PARENTS & CHILDREN'S EQUALITY

associations (W.V) PACE

Community Affairs File

DEC 1 2 1984

Parents seeking legal equality lobby several area legislators

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

After divorce, if a noncustodial parent can be put in jail for failing to pay child support, then a custodial parent should also be jailed for failing to allow visitation rights.

That was one of the issues addressed by Parents and Children's Equality of West Central Indiana during a legislative forum Monday night.

Area state legislators attending included William Dunbar, Robert Hellmann and Ed Pease.

Pease said he had been enlightened by the forum and agreed to help the group work to make state custody, visitation and support laws more equitable for all parties involved.

PACE, a support group for fathers, second wives and noncustodial parents, promotes "parents and children's rights during and after divorce."

Dave York, president of PACE, said he would like to see statutes written so that if a custodial parent denied visitation after a divorce, that action could be grounds for a change of custody.

York pointed out that laws are not enforced equally in such matters. "If fathers are being jailed for not paying support, why aren't mothers jailed for denying visitation?" he said.

The sentiment was shared by many of the other 25 persons attending, who at times emotionally testified that courts were unfair to them in child-custody cases. "We have no rights. We're a nobody in society," said one man.

The group also discussed a recent federal law which provides sanctions against a supporting parent who falls 30 days behind in child support. State laws must evenutally comply with the federal law, York said.

The PACE president said the group would like an equal emphasis placed on visitation rights.

Dunbar told the members they can provide input into the system. A federal mandate has led to the creation of a state commission charged with reviewing child support and visitation issues. The commission's recommendations and legislative proposals are due Oct. 1, 1985. The final report will be given the the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Hopefully, you will gain a voice in what could be law," Dunbar said.

In an opening statement, Hellmann said PACE members should work to change laws in order to help them carry out their responsibilities to their children, rather than simply to improve their own rights.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

PARENTS OF ALLERGIC CHILDREN

Community Affairs File

Parents of Allergic Children group strives for physical, mental health

Assoc (W.V.)
Community Affairs File
T s MAY 6 1984
T s MAY 6 1984

By Penny Blaker Mitchell
Tribune-Star Living Editor

Children with allergies are often ill. Their illnesses may range from sore throats to ear infections to wheezing and coughing. The illnesses may be the result of something they ate or drank or something they inhaled or touched.

Whatever the cause, children with allergies face special problems ... along with their parents. For the parents must constantly deal with the stress and worry created by the allergies.

In addition to coping with illnesses and allergic reactions, parents must find foods that will not harm the child or create environments that are safe. Medications are sometimes needed. Allergies can be expensive.

Patti Farnsworth, president of Parents of Allergic Children, a local support group, said "Childhood should be the best of times, but if a child doesn't feel well, then how can he enjoy it?"

This week members of Parents of Allergic Children are observing National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Week, noting that one in six children and adults are affected by asthma and allergies. In addition, asthma is still the cause of death of some 5,000 Americans each year.

Farnsworth said the purpose of Parents of Allergic Children is to learn about the allergies so parents can help and support one another. Tips about environmental controls are offered. One of the goals is to expand public knowledge.

Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Sharing with a hero

Craig Shaffer, defensive linebacker for the St. Louis Cardinals, is the honorary chairman of Parents of Allergic Children. Shaffer, who controls his asthma and allergies, is a graduate of Schulte High School and Indiana State University. He is pictured signing a football for Jeremy and Jared Lamb, children with allergies.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Vigo County Public Library

She added that the local group may soon become affiliated with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation.

Meetings of the group are conducted at 7 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month in the Vigo County Public Library. Because of the Memorial Day holiday, the next meeting will be Tuesday, May 29.

Farnsworth said adults with allergies are also welcome to attend meetings, which feature special speakers, recipe exchanges and support.

As in most support groups, Farnsworth noted that parents attain a sense of relief and a loss of isolation in sharing information and experiences.

Allergies, she said, are frustrating to deal with. During meetings of the group, participants often exclaim, "Hey, I've been there, too!"

Farnsworth started the support group in March of 1983. Her four children all have allergies ... all to different foods ... and all to milk. The idea of the support group was born of her own frustration and her search for knowledge and facts.

She noted that available information is often contradictory, especially in relation to food allergies, leaving parents confused and puzzled.

She said scratch tests "can't be used for food allergies." As a result, the search for the offending food is often a hit and miss situation.

While some physicians do not recognize a correlation between foods and chronic illnesses, Farnsworth said she is lucky to have found a pediatrician who does. When one youngster developed a constant nasal infection after her first birthday, milk was removed from the diet. Suddenly, instead of listening to the child snore all night, Farnsworth was going into the bedroom to see if the quietly sleeping child was still breathing.

Children with allergies suffer from emotional trauma as well as physical discomfort.

"How do you tell Grandma that she can't give her grandchild a cookie? And how do you tell the child that he or she can't eat cupcakes or cookies when visiting friends?" the young mother asked.

Even at pre-school age, many youngsters fear "being different." Peer pressure decrees that they accept a cookie or a cup of chocolate milk even when they know they will be ill.

Farnsworth said Parents of Allergic Children are putting together educational material for young children with and without allergies so both groups will better understand the differences in diet, environment, etc.

"It is hard for kids to adjust to and deal with," Farnsworth noted. "We need to teach them that it is OK to be this way ... that it is better to be healthy than to eat a cookie."

Recipes featured

Recipes designed for people with allergies to chocolate, milk and wheat will be featured on the "Food Page" in the Monday edition of the Tribune-Star.

Assoc (W.V.)

Parents seek education about allergy, asthma

T - APR 2 2 1984

Members of Parents of Allergic Children support group along with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America are planning "National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Week," May 6 through May 12.

Patti Farnsworth, president of the local Parents of Allergic Children group, said, "Our support group will be sponsoring with other AAFA groups the first asthma athlete of the year college scholarship competition in 1984. Outstanding high school student athletes who cope with asthma will be nominated from six U.S. regions. A total of $21,000 in scholarship awards will be made by the end of the year."

The local group will meet at 7 p.m. Monday in the Vigo County Public Library.

Dave Phillips, respiratory therapist at Union Hospital, will be the guest speaker at the 7 p.m. May 29 meeting in the library.

Nationally more than 35 million people of all ages have as yet incurable immunologic illnesses. Farnsworth noted that allergies are a significant health problem and a leading cause of absence from school and work in the area.

Education will be the focus of "National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Week." Willard Scott is national honorary chairman of the week. Helen Hayes, who has asthma, is the foundation's honorary chairman for 1984.

Vigo County Public Library
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

Community Affairs File

Lynn Please add Assoc (W.V) – Parkinson

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE
Community Affairs File

Positive Thinking Parkinson Society

S DEC 1 1 1982

By CHARLES J. MALOOF
Staff Writer

Terre Haute has one of two support groups in the state devoted to helping those with Parkinson's disease, their families and friends.

Founded in May 1981 by Thelma Wallace, "Positive Thinking Parkinson Society" is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to help Parkinsonians find hope and encouragement, according to Mary Boyll, president.

Parkinson's, a disorder of body movement, is most common in persons over 60 years of age, she explained. It affects the central nervous system and manifests itself with tremors, slurred speech, loss of flexibility and coordination and occasional lapses of memory.

Presently, there is no known cure for the disease, named for the English doctor who zeroed in on its nature in 1817 while studying the ailments then diagnosed as "trembling palsy."

"We're a self-help group that shares experiences with each other," Mrs. Boyll said. "We try to learn more about Parkinson's and the medications used to treat it."

There are many types of medicine available for controlling it, but no two people have the same results from the same prescription. "Medication does just so much good," said Mrs. Boyll, "and then it wears off a patient."

Her husband, Loren "Bud" Boyll, was diagnosed in 1973 and both attended a society meeting in June 1981. "Everyone is comfortable with each other and can talk and hear about all the troubles they share," she said.

Regular meetings are scheduled at 1:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Vigo County Public Library. But, the January, February and March sessions have been cancelled in anticipation of inclimate weather, said Mrs. Boyll, who indicated the next meeting is set for April 6, 1983.

Parkinson's group provides self-help

"Positive Thinking Parkinson Society" has been established locally for those afflicted with Parkinson's disease and their families. Officers are, from left, Margaret Bizot, secretary; Eloise Earle, treasurer; Jack Button, vice president; Mary Boyll, president; and Mary Lou Saikley, corresponding secretary.

Staff Photo/Randy Prophet

Approximately 40 Parkinsonians are society members with five being women. "We average about 24 persons, including spouses, for each meeting," said Mrs. Boyll. Attendance is irregular due to the health situation of many members, she added.

They come not only from Terre Haute, Clinton and Brazil and surrounding areas in Indiana, but from Paris, Charleston and Hutsonville, in Illinois.

In lieu of dues, donations are accepted at each meeting to be used for a variety of expenses.

Guest speakers who have appeared include doctors, nurses, physical fitness experts — the group has exercise classes, also — and medicare and insurance spokespersons.

"Doctors say support groups are wonderful," Mrs. Boyll said, "but, we don't pressure anyone to join us."

Other officers are Jack Button, vice president; Margaret Bizot, secretary; Mary Lou Saikley, corresponding secretary; and Eloise Earle, treasurer.

Although the local group isn't affiliated with any other support unit, presently, correspondence takes place with the American Parkinson Disease Association and Parkinson Disease Foundation in New York; National Parkinson Foundation, Miami; and United Parkinson Foundation, Chicago.

Mrs. Boyll said anyone interested in joining the society or who wishes additional information may call her at 299-1598, or Button at 234-0954.

Vigo County Public Library